

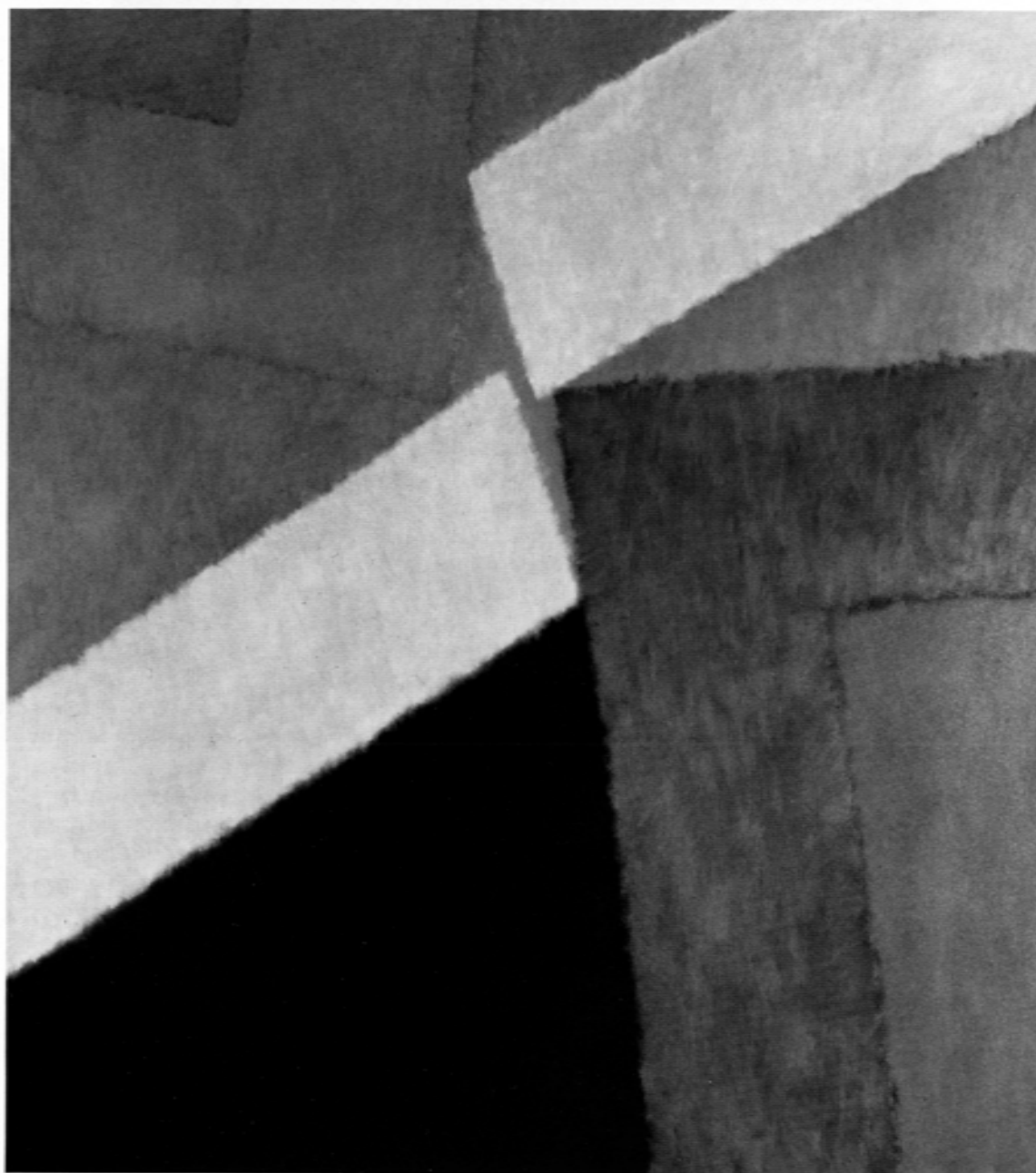
HERMAN CHERRY  
New York Edition

# Herman Cherry

## PAINTINGS 1984-1989

July 11-September 9, 1989

University Art Gallery  
Staller Center for the Arts  
State University of New York  
at Stony Brook



*Push Comes To Shove*, 1988-89  
Oil on canvas, 66x60"  
Courtesy Anita Shapolsky Gallery

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Anita Shapolsky for her assistance in organizing this exhibition. Thanks also to Luise Ross of Luise Ross Gallery and Martha Hurley of Anita Shapolsky Gallery. I want to thank Regina Cherry for her assistance, as well.

Thanks are also extended to Michael Maszk, Pete Pantaleo, and Ann Wiens for installation and to members of the Staller Center for the Arts staff: Gina Felicetti, Zarqa Javed, Andrea Kwasny, Marvina Lowry, Donna McLaren, and Ellen Stankus, Gallery Assistants; Patrick Kelly, Technical Director, Liz Stein, Assistant Technical Director, and the Technical Crew, Staller Center, for exhibiting lighting; and Mary Balduf, Gallery Secretary.

Most of all I wish to thank Herman Cherry for sharing his work with the Stony Brook community.

Rhonda Cooper  
Director

## Herman Cherry

Often called a "painter's painter," Herman Cherry has long been admired by other artists for his technical prowess and his mastery of color and form. As this present exhibition of recent works makes abundantly clear, it requires no special expertise in painting or art history to appreciate the direct, sensual appeal of Herman Cherry's work.

Born in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1909, Cherry began his career in southern California. In the late 1920s and early 1930s, Cherry studied in Los Angeles at the Otis Art Institute and at the Students Art League under Stanton MacDonald Wright. He continued his studies at the Art Students League in New York under Thomas Hart Benton. Cherry became a part of the Abstract Expressionist movement in New York City in the '40s and '50s. Although never as well known to the general public as his friends Willem de Kooning and David Smith, Cherry has continued to work while influencing new generations of young artists for nearly half a century. His work has been exhibited extensively in museums and galleries across the United States as well as abroad. An accomplished lecturer and writer as well as a painter, Cherry has taught art all over the country, has written for numerous publications, and is a published poet.

Herman Cherry is best known as a master colorist. In the late 1950s, Cherry gradually moved away from the darker tones and heavier textures that characterized his earlier work. Cherry uses a wide range of tonal values to define space and structure in his paintings. Underplaying his technical virtuosity, Cherry does not allow his masterful brushwork to distract from the statements made by his color fields. Cherry's colors seem to float through the works, anchored in space and time by bold stripes and lines. Colors clash and blend, seeking and finding resolution in new and constantly surprising ways. Always intense and direct, the imagery is simultaneously subtle and sensual. The viewer is emotionally touched by the compositions without feeling jarred by Cherry's distinctive juxtaposition of shapes and colors. Simple forms are skillfully combined to make complex statements, and the whole is invariably greater than the sum of the parts.

Critics have often commented on the spiritual quality of Cherry's work. His shimmering colors seem to be in perpetual motion, but they convey a sense of stillness and tranquility as well. His works speak of tension and energy, but never of pain. They have about them a quiet nobility. They reassure the viewer that harmony and grace can emerge triumphant in a chaotic universe. Viewers may disagree on what they have been made to feel by Cherry's abstractions, but they cannot doubt that they have, indeed, been made to feel.

## **HERMAN CHERRY**

Spring 1989 Exhibitions

Anita Shapolsky Gallery  
99 Spring Street, NYC  
May 11—June 10, 1989

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Luise Ross Gallery  
50 West 57th Street, NYC  
May 20—June 23, 1989

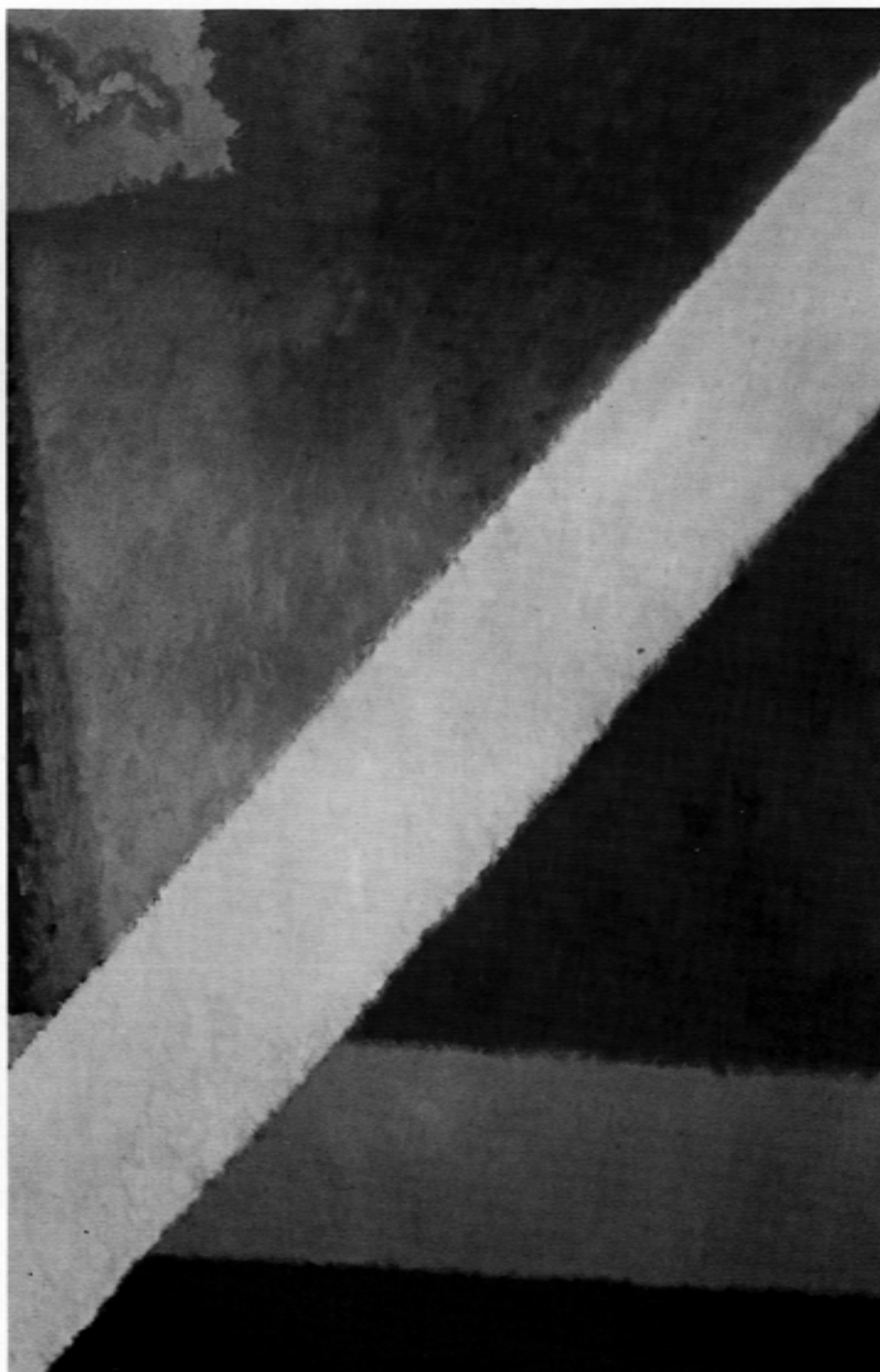
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### **Off Limits**

Photo credits: ©1989 Regina Cherry

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Design: Ellen Colcord Stankus  
Typesetting and printing: Expressway Offset, Plainview, NY

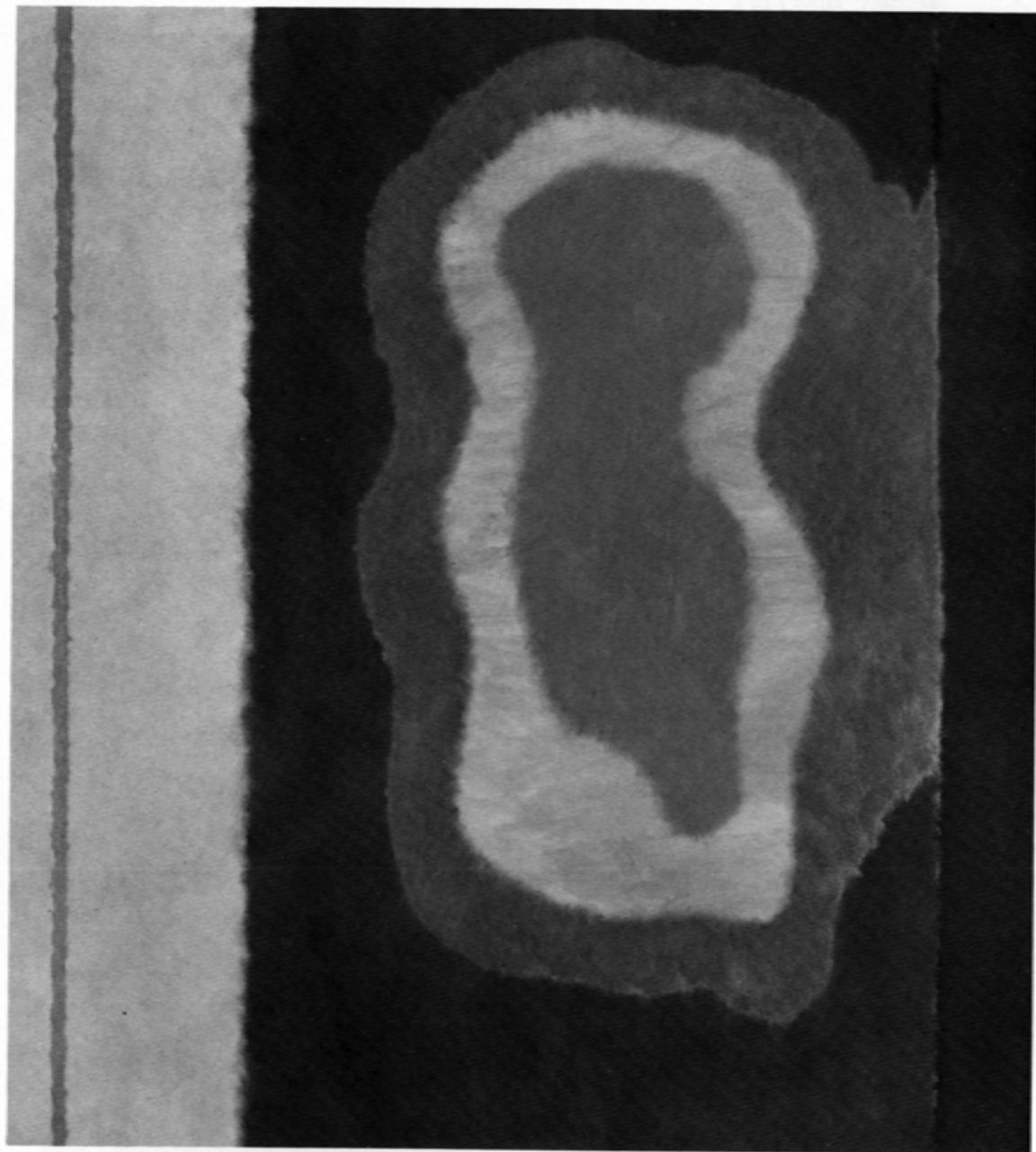


*Off Limits*, 1987-88  
Oil on canvas, 72x48"  
Courtesy Anita Shapolsky Gallery

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thank you to my family and friends for their support and encouragement. I would like to thank my mother, my father, my sister, and my brother for their love and support. I would also like to thank my friends for their support and encouragement. I would like to thank my friends for their support and encouragement.

**Throb**



*Throb*, 1988  
Oil on canvas, 66x60"  
Courtesy Anita Shapolsky Gallery

**Network IV**



*Network IV*, 1988  
Oil on canvas, 66x60"  
Courtesy Anita Shapolsky Gallery

# HERMAN CHERRY

Born April 10, 1909, Atlantic City, New Jersey

Herman Cherry's paintings, mobiles, and constructions have been exhibited in museums and art galleries all over the world. He studied at the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles, with Stanton MacDonald Wright at the Students Art League in Los Angeles, and with Thomas Hart Benton at the Art Students League in New York. Cherry has taught at colleges and universities across the country, including the University of California at Berkeley, Colorado College, Southampton College, New York Studio School, Parsons School of Design, and the University of Minnesota. An accomplished writer, Herman Cherry has contributed to many arts publications in this country and abroad. His book of poetry, *Poems of Pain and Other Matters*, was published in 1976.

## Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 1989 Baruch College Gallery, NYC  
University Gallery, Staller Center for the Arts, SUNY at Stony Brook  
Luise Ross Gallery, NYC  
Anita Shapolsky Gallery, NYC
- 1988 White Pine Gallery, Chicago
- 1985 CUNY Graduate Center, NYC
- 1984 Luise Ross Gallery, NYC  
Il Punto Blu Gallery, Southampton, NY
- 1983 Grayson Gallery, Chicago
- 1979 Nobe Gallery, NYC
- 1974 Kingsborough Community College, Brooklyn, NY
- 1972 Benson Gallery, Bridgehampton, NY
- 1969 University of Oregon
- 1968 Southern Illinois University
- 1967 University of Kentucky
- 1961 Pasadena Art Museum, California  
Oakland Art Museum, California  
Poindexter Gallery, NYC
- 1959 Poindexter Gallery, NYC
- 1958 University of Mississippi
- 1956 Tanager Gallery, NYC
- 1955 Stable Gallery, NYC
- 1951 Ganso Gallery, NYC
- 1948 Weyhe Gallery, NYC
- 1947 Weyhe Gallery, NYC
- 1943 Gastine Gallery, Los Angeles
- 1942 Stanley Rose Galleries, Hollywood, California

**Sliding I**



*Sliding I*, 1988  
Oil on canvas, 20x15"  
Courtesy Luise Rose Gallery

## PREVIOUS EXHIBITIONS AT THE ART GALLERY

- |      |                                                                                                                              |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1975 | FACULTY EXHIBITION                                                                                                           | 1983 | THE WAR SHOW<br>CERAMIC DIRECTIONS: A CONTEMPORARY OVERVIEW<br>CINDY SHERMAN<br>THE FACULTY SHOW                                                                                                                                                |
| 1976 | MICHELLE STUART<br>RECENT DRAWINGS (AN AMERICAN FEDERATION OF<br>ARTS EXHIBITION)<br>SALVATORE ROMANO                        | 1984 | BERNARD APTEKAR: ART AND POLITICS<br>ERIC STALLER: LIGHT YEARS<br>NORMAN BLUHM: SEVEN FROM THE SEVENTIES<br>EDWARD COUNTEY 1921-1984<br>CARL ANDRE: SCULPTURE                                                                                   |
| 1977 | MEL PEKARSKY<br>JUDITH BERNSTEIN<br>HERBERT BAYER (AN AMERICAN FEDERATION OF<br>ARTS EXHIBITION)                             | 1985 | LEWIS HINE IN EUROPE: 1918-1919<br>FRANCESCO TORRES: PATHS OF GLORY<br>HOMAGE TO BOLOTOWSKY: 1935-1981<br>FREEDOM WITHIN: PAINTINGS BY JUAN SANCHEZ/<br>INSTALLATION BY ALFREDO JAAR<br>ABSTRACT PAINTINGS REDEFINED                            |
| 1978 | LEON GOLUB<br>WOMEN ARTISTS FROM NEW YORK<br>JANET FISH<br>ROSEMARY MAYER<br>THE SISTER CHAPEL                               | 1986 | KLEGE: METAL SCULPTURE<br>TOBY BUONAGURIO: SELECTED WORKS<br>YANG YEN-PING AND ZENG SHAN-QING<br>EIGHT URBAN PAINTERS: CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS<br>OF THE EAST VILLAGE<br>TV: THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS<br>WOMEN ARTISTS OF THE SURREALIST MOVEMENT |
| 1979 | SHIRLEY GORELICK<br>ALAN SONFIST<br>HOWARDENA PENDELL<br>ROY LICHTENSTEIN                                                    | 1987 | HANS BREDER: ARCHETYPAL DIAGRAMS<br>MICHAEL SINGER: RITUAL SERIES RETELLINGS<br>JUDITH DOLNICK/ROBERT NATKIN<br>MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE: THE HUMANITARIAN VISION<br>MEL ALEXENBERG: COMPUTER ANGELS<br>STEDNA AND WOODY VASULKA: THE WEST         |
| 1980 | BENNY ANDREWS<br>ALEX KATZ<br>EIGHT FROM NEW YORK<br>ARTISTS FROM QUEENS<br>OTTO PIENE<br>STONY BROOK 11, THE STUDIO FACULTY | 1988 | THE FACULTY SHOW '88<br>ROBERT WHITE: SELECTED WORKS 1947-1988<br>LEE KRASNER: PAINTINGS 1956-1984<br>EDGAR BUONAGURIO: PERMUTATION AND EVOLUTION<br>1974-1988<br>JOAN SNYDER COLLECTS JOAN SNYDER                                              |
| 1981 | ALICE NEEL<br>SS MERCER: 10 SCULPTORS<br>JOHN LITTLE<br>IRA JOEL HABER<br>LEON POLK SMITH                                    | 1989 | THE M.F.A. SHOW '89<br>ROBERT KUSHNER: SILENT OPERAS                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1982 | FOUR SCULPTORS<br>CECILE ABISH<br>JACK YOUNGERMAN<br>ALAN SHIELDS<br>THE STONY BROOK ALUMNI INVITATIONAL<br>ANN McCOY        |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |